UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service
Washington, DC 20408

OCT 30 1974

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your letter of September 17, 1974.

You request "copies of all your regulations, precedents, etc., controlling the availability of all Warren Commission materials as of the date the first responsibility the National Archives had for these records to the present." The unpublished records of the Commission were withheld from research at the time they were received by the National Archives as investigatory records under our General Restrictions, part I. Because of the public interest in the records, a special procedure for reviewing documents furnished to the Commission by other agencies and making them available for research was established by a memorandum of Attorney General Katzenbach of April 13, 1965, to Mr. McGeorge Bundy, Special Assistant to the President; Mr. Bundy's memorandum to the Attorney General dated April 19, 1965; and the guidelines established by the Department of Justice. The numbered documents of the Commission were reviewed under the guidelines in 1965. The Department later authorized the National Archives to review other records of the Commission by a letter of Assistant Attorney General Wommecroft to the Archivist of the United States dated August 17, 1966. The Archivist in 1966 established regulations of the National Archives (later revised) for making the Warren Commission materials available to researchers. These are in addition to the general "Regulations for the Public Use of Records in the National Archives and Records Service." The General Services Administration in 1974 established regulations for making records available under the "Freedom of Information Act" (5 U.S.C. 552). Enclosed are copies of these documents.

We are enclosing copies of page 16 of our handbook, National Archives Procedures, relating in part to time limits for answering reference correspondence, and of your letter of August 9, 1974. A reply to your letter of August 9 was prepared within the period of five workdays after the receipt of the letter by the branch responsible for preparing the reply. Because of your constant references to past and potential litigation, we routinely have our replies reviewed by the GSA Office of General Counsel, which review consequently results in the delayed responses.

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Enclosed also are the copies of Foreign Documents 1131 and 1552(a) that you requested, as well as the letter of the CIA declassifying CD 1131 and the [illegible] of CD 1552(a). The declassification was apparently the result of a request directed to the CIA by a researcher, as the National [illegible] as this made no request for a review and none was [illegible].

Sincerely,

JAMES B. [illegible]
Archivist of the [illegible]

Enclosure